



iLEAD: A comprehensive transfer experience program with a focus on civic leadership, engagement and democracy

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Summary

This poster presentation describes a program that is based on the need to provide support for transferring college students through a comprehensive transfer experience program with a special focus on increasing knowledge and awareness of civic engagement, leadership, and democracy.

As reported in Leadership Exchange (Jacobs & Marling, 2011), the National Center for Education Statistics found that at least 60% of college graduates will attend more than one institution during their academic careers. Transfer students may have familiarity with critical thinking, communication, and interpersonal relationship development, but may lack exposure, understanding, and practice with civic engagement, leadership, and democracy. There is no known research on the impacts or effects of

transfer-year experience programs and these variables and with a growing number of transfer students, it is imperative to explore the needs for this unique set of students.

This poster presentation, explores the use of the iLEAD (Leadership, Engagement, and Democracy) initiative to increase knowledge and awareness of civic engagement, leadership, and democracy. iLEAD focuses on cultivating civic engagement skills through leadership activities, service-learning, and democratic class instruction during a one-semester course (Track 1) or two-semester course (Track 2).

The poster presentation will include background information on transfer students, a program overview, program implementation strategies, research methodology, and assessment and evaluation plans for continued effectiveness and impact on student learning (NASPA & ACPA, 2004). Missouri State University is planning implementation of iLEAD in the spring 2013 semester through the Department of Academic Affairs and Public Affairs and this research has informed that process.

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